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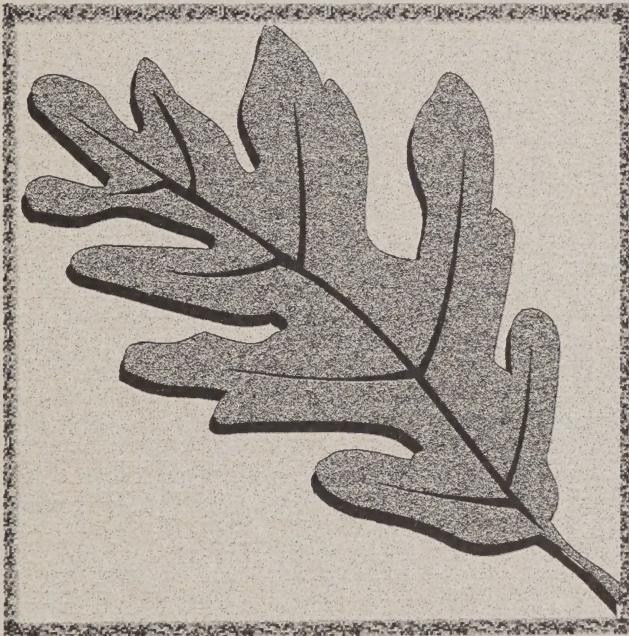


United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern
Area

Urban and Community Forestry Program Achievements in 1995



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Vital Communities
Through Healthy Ecosystems

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Recent studies provide evidence that communities with trees support better relations among neighbors than those without. Effects of stronger ties include better physical and mental health, less child neglect or abuse, less violence, and a lesser likelihood to depend on social services in times of need.

The long-term benefits of trees are more than twice their cost.

For every \$1 in federal urban forestry funding, another \$6 are leveraged.

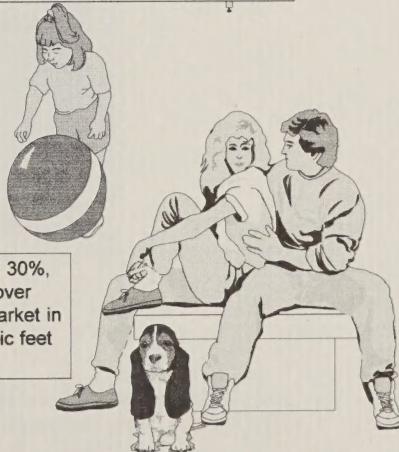
Trees and landscaping can increase the value of property by up to 20%.

DOWNTOWN MALL

In the US, one child in seven is treated for air pollution-caused asthma related diseases. Some 150 million U.S. citizens breathe air officially designated as unhealthy. However...

A tree-lined street can reduce air-borne dust particles by 80%.

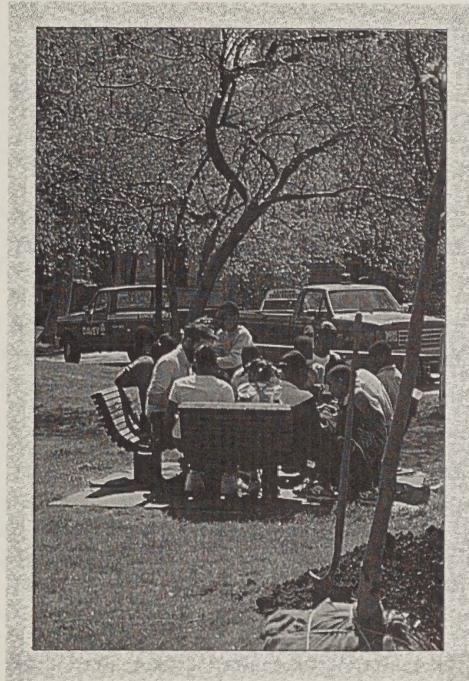
Trees can reduce home heating and cooling costs by up to 30%, potentially saving the nation almost \$1.5 billion a year. (At over 55%, gas is the leading home heating fuel of the energy market in the United States. In 1994, the US imported 2,623,839 cubic feet of natural gas at a cost of \$4.9 billion.)



Vital Communities through Healthy Ecosystems

Urban and Community Forestry Program

Achievements in 1995



Produced by Helen Watford, Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with Bob Neville at the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry.

Urban and Community Forestry Program Achievements in 1995

Table of Contents

Program Overview

Responding to America's needs	2
Urban forestry today	4
Goals	5

Achievements in 1995

Program Components & Results 1995	7
1. The State Program	7
2. The Federal Program	22
3. Federal Financial Assistance	25
4. Special Urban Forestry Projects	25
5. Congressional Initiatives	26
6. Pilot State Activity	30
7. Urban Resources Partnership	31

Budget

Budget Summary for fiscal years 1993 - 1995	32
State Program Funding 1993 - 1995	33

Contacts

State urban and community forestry contacts	34
Federal urban and community forestry contacts	36



Responding to America's needs

Urban Forestry developed as a response to modern societal problems:

- ↳ Degraded spaces
- ↳ Deteriorating neighborhoods
- ↳ Poor air quality
- ↳ High energy costs
- ↳ Pollution
- ↳ Unemployment
- ↳ Crime
- ↳ High stormwater management costs
- ↳ Educational and recreational needs
- ↳ Vandalism



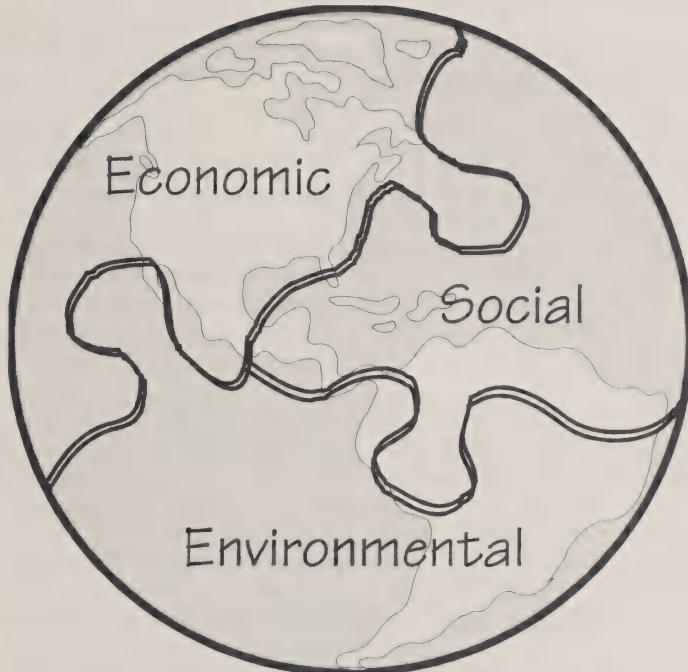
These issues are faced daily by all urban dwellers - 80% of the population.

Yet these same issues cannot be solved solely at a state or federal level - people must become involved, taking responsibility for finding and implementing solutions. Urban forestry projects reach out to the people - and places - who most can benefit.

There are no easy answers. Any effective solution must recognize that the problems we face are inter-connected. As a society, we must work towards multiple goals, where social stability is as important as economic development and environmental health, in a cost-effective and efficient manner, without jeopardizing the ability of our children and grandchildren to do the same.

By investing in urban forests, communities are able to reap wide-ranging dividends. Observed benefits have included:

- ↳ Increased trade and property values in deteriorated areas
- ↳ Lowered incidence of child abuse
- ↳ Decreased demand on social services
- ↳ Better air and water quality leading to better physical health
- ↳ Job creation
- ↳ Stronger communities with less crime and vandalism
- ↳ More attractive landscapes
- ↳ Hands-on environmental education
- ↳ Lower energy bills
- ↳ Less costly public services



As we approach the turn of the century and address the challenges of the next millennium, America's urban populations are becoming acutely sensitive to the quality of their environments. They are increasingly aware of the social and economic benefits that flow in communities where nature's role is acknowledged and optimized. Today's urban dwellers are ready to be personally involved in well-planned projects to enhance their community's quality of life.

It is up to the Urban and Community Forestry Program to support this new responsible awareness through appropriate financial and technical assistance, to the benefit of all.



Urban forestry is the planning for and management of forests and related natural resources in population centers ranging from small communities to large urban areas to ensure long term community and ecological sustainability and enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

Urban forestry is not an end in itself, but a cost effective means to an end that addresses a wide range of environmental, social, economic and political issues, providing an essential community service.

It involves attaining a balance with economic growth and environmental and social development through natural resource management and community partnerships.

Urban forestry legislation in America dates to the 17th century when William Penn, proprietor of Pennsylvania, required that for each four acres of land cleared, one acre should remain forested. Federal legislation included communities and urban areas within the managerial jurisdiction of the Forest Service in 1972. The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 allowed the Forest Service to make funds directly available to State Foresters and communities. The 1990 Farm Bill further focused assistance to the states to develop urban and community forestry programs.

Urban forestry is an expansion of traditional arboriculture and street tree management practices as a catalyst for community-based change. The shift away from managing a single resource (i.e. street trees) towards managing multiple natural resources for multiple goals - economic, social and environmental - led, in 1990, to the Forest Service finetuning its whole operations using ecosystem-based management. Designed to maximize the benefits of the urban forest - clean water, clean air, diverse recreation, improved wildlife habitat, energy conservation, economic enhancement, and healthy vegetation, ecosystem-based management folds arboricultural and related practices into a decision-making framework that links on-the-ground activities with both short and long term restoration and enhancement of natural systems in the urban environment.

In addition to managing natural resources on federal land, the Forest Service is responding to state and community requests for its expertise in populated areas -including river corridors, old rights of way, wetlands, abandoned land and urban development and redevelopment. All these opportunities can be linked to on-the-ground economic, social and ecological restoration and revitalization objectives at a cost that is considerably less than more capital intensive redevelopment approaches.



Goals

The vision for the future of the twenty Northeastern Area states and the District of Columbia is to achieve community sustainability and an enhanced quality of life through stewardship of urban and community forests and related natural resources.

Sustainability implies the ability of a community to use its forests and related natural resources to meet its environmental, economic and social needs without diminishing the ability of other communities or future generations to meet their needs as well.

This concept ensures all citizens and their communities equal protection from toxins and environmental hazards, equal opportunity for environmental enhancement and restoration and adequate information and education to facilitate decision-making.

The following four goals apply to all urban forestry programs:



Goal 1 Awareness.

Create a responsible public and responsive government by promoting an understanding of stewardship, and the social, economic and environmental values of trees, forests and related natural resources in cities and communities.

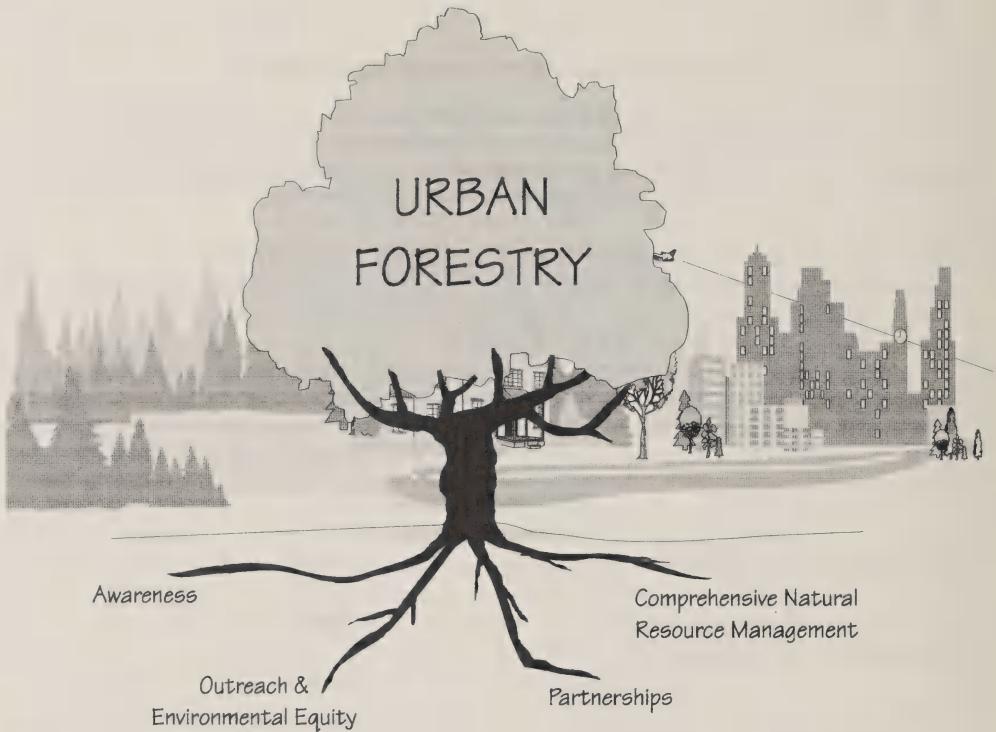
Effective solutions depend on public input



Goal 2 Outreach and Environmental Equity.

Expand program participation by involving minorities, people of color, American Indian Nations, people with disabilities and under-served populations in all aspects of urban and community forestry.

Empowering people to help themselves



Goal 3 Partnerships

Create and maintain partnerships that strengthen cooperative working relationships and integrate diverse activities among public and private agencies and organizations at federal, state and local levels.

Combined resources create synergy and increase output

Goal 4 Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

Implement an ecological approach which integrates bio-physical, social and economic considerations to support healthy, sustainable communities.

Accountable and effective management



Program Components & Results 1995

Since 1978, the Urban and Community Forestry Program has funded federal, state and local programs, and provided technical assistance and direction.

The Urban Forestry Program in the Northeastern Area concentrates on seven components:

1. The State Program
2. The Federal Program
3. Federal Financial Assistance
4. Special Urban Forestry Projects
5. Congressional Initiatives
6. Pilot State Activity
7. Urban Resources Partnership



1. The State Program



The State Program delivers funding and technical assistance to individual states. The state chooses how to use the funds according to its local needs and priorities. Federal funding is monitored and evaluated on a yearly basis, and annual state accomplishment reports are produced.

Examples of Northeastern Area State Activities in 1995 Supported by Federal Funds:

 **Connecticut**



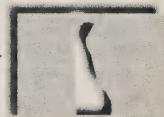
*Contact: Fred Borman III
Program Specialist - Forestry
(860) 424-3630*

Bridgeport's **Youth at Risk** program gathered momentum in its second year, and recruited, trained and employed 20 young people to perform tree maintenance on downtown public trees. This year the town's council launched the educational and marketing campaign **Trees Mean Business** to inform small business owners of the **economic benefits** of street trees.

The Connecticut **ReLeaf Tree Festival** on April 25 attracted 900 children and 500 adults. Events included arborist displays, poster competitions, Tree City USA awards and a widely-reported awards ceremony.

Street tree **inventories** were carried out in the towns of Wethersfield, Ridgefield, Canton and Norwalk. Master plans were developed for historic homestead sites in Fairfield and Middletown, and natural resource plans for town-owned parks in Suffield and Bloomfield.

 **Delaware**



*Constance Zipperer
Urban Forestry Coordinator
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The Urban & Community Forestry Program promoted **ecosystem-based management** through tree management and watershed workshops, and fact sheets for communities to expand their understanding of Urban Forestry.

The University of Delaware and the City of New Castle were partners in developing an **urban forestry management plan** for the city. Landscape design students worked alongside residents to produce a manuscript with recommendations for tree maintenance, education and design ideas.

A **Texaco** refinery in Delaware City was the site of a National Tree Trust **tree planting project**. Residents, Texaco workers and state/county staff planted 10,000 seedlings in a nursery setting on the refinery's grounds. The seedlings will grow there for one year, and later will be distributed to local volunteer organizations for community greening projects.



District of Columbia

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French Street Neighborhood Association launched **Kids Korps**, a neighborhood cleanup and gardening project for youth volunteers. Other associations are being targeted to establish Kids Korps in their neighborhoods.

The Bloomingdale Civic Association developed a program to revitalize the neighborhood beginning with the **renovation of an urban park**, located in the middle of the community. The area was desolate for many years. Several neighbors pooled resources and worked in **partnership with the federal and local government**, and other non-profit organizations to improve the quality of life in their community. The once-barren park is now a safe haven, filled with beautiful trees, shrubs, perennials, ornamental grasses and a water fountain.



Illinois

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An 800-acre site in Cook County is home to the Swallow Cliff Woods **Ecosystem Reforestation Project**, a practical demonstration area where managing the uniquely placed lands for native biodiversity involves large numbers of urban dwellers in ecosystem management. The functioning of the area's natural resources is being restored, while government agencies, natural resource groups and the public work together towards ecological goals.

Illinois is 3rd in the nation for the number of **Tree City USA** communities it has established (a program recognizing communities for having a basic local forestry program). Since the TCU Growth Award program began, Illinois has been 1st in the nation for the number of TCU Growth Awards, which recognize communities for going beyond the standard local forestry program by achievement of special initiatives.

A partnership of private and public organizations conducted an **urban forestry survey** to provide information on the potential for urban and community forestry outreach, and serve as an historical marker concerning the development of urban forestry in Illinois. In addition, 50 communities developed street tree inventories and 21 developed management plans.

Indiana

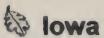
John Parry
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The **Cool School Grant Program** was developed and grants were awarded to 17 public schools. The schools use the grants to implement tree **planting projects that demonstrate energy conservation** at the school site. The schools attended a Cool School workshop, and developed educational activities for students.

Empowering communities is emphasized in Indiana. **Urban Forest Conservation Grants** were utilized to transmit over 70% of federal funds. Twenty-two communities and non-profit groups received from \$2,000 to \$20,000 to carry out projects to improve their urban environment. The emphasis in awarding this **funding promotes** projects that develop **long term community forestry programs**. Projects include conducting tree inventories, developing training programs for municipal employees, and producing a video on protecting trees during construction.

Raising awareness and increasing support were promoted in two projects implemented in Indianapolis in cooperation with Marion County Cooperative Extension. A **Tree Master** course was initiated and is being held quarterly. 51 individuals have graduated. Tree Masters volunteer a minimum of 40 hours per year to tree projects. A greening advocacy group was also developed to help promote tree issues in Indianapolis.



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Trees for Kids and **Trees for Teens** are Iowa's 6 year-old statewide tree education and planting programs for elementary and secondary schools. During 1995, nearly 4000 teacher packets (containing background forestry information, classroom activities, tree ID booklets and posters) were distributed upon request, reaching 300,000 students who in turn planted over 83,000 trees. Next year Trees for Kids will focus on oak ecosystems in celebration of Iowa's 150 years as a state.

Trees Forever is working with six major investor-owned energy utilities to promote energy conservation tree plantings, by making grants to volunteer tree committees. In 1995, Trees Forever coordinators worked with over 950 volunteer organizations to implement energy-efficient tree plantings in over 300 communities. Over 72,000 trees were planted.

During the summer of 1995, and for the second year running, the Iowa DNR participated in the Des Moines School District's **Science Bound** program for minority high school students to **work as interns in natural resource areas**, including urban forestry.



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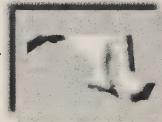
The town of Camden's **urban forestry program** and a large credit card company are working together to improve quality of life for the town's residents. As Camden's Tree Board developed a management plan and continued the street tree inventory, the company donated \$50,000 for tree planting and maintenance in 1995, and has pledged a similar sum in maintenance over the next five years.

The **Oakhurst Tree Challenge for the Millennium** has raised over \$135,000 in donations from 35 local businesses to be spent enhancing Portland's community forest.

Augusta Tree Board proclaimed the whole month of May **Arbor Month**, and organized promotional activities, workshops, displays and tree-plantings throughout the city. Local high schools competed in a televised quiz show called "Tree Bole". Augusta established a trust fund for its community forestry program that raised over \$15,000 in donations from the public and private business sectors.

Maryland

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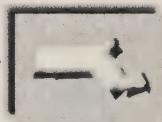
Tree-Mendous Maryland and the Herring Run Watershed Association embarked on an extensive **tree planting program** designed to restore Herring Run river and lay the foundations for the return of herring to the river and its tributaries. With volunteer support from the United Way's Day of Caring and the Hands On Baltimore program, over 5,000 trees were planted.

The Chesapeake Bay School Reforestation Program established 33 new **school forests**. Schools competing for the grants to reforest their properties developed environmental education programs centered around the school forest and integrated these programs into their curriculum.

Project Cloverleaf, a public/private **partnership** between the **State Highway Administration and Tree-Mendous Maryland, enhanced state highways** with plants. In just over two years, volunteers planted over 4,000 trees and shrubs and hundreds of thousands of flowers and bulbs at three major highway sites in Maryland.

Massachusetts

*Phillip Rodbell
Urban Forestry Coordinator
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A partnership between state and local agencies, the Eagle Eye Institute and professional groups provided **urban youth** with an introduction to rural and urban forested environments. Youth who completed the educational portion of the program were employed as interns with the city of Somerville Public Works Department, and all are encouraged to get involved in local efforts to protect and care for community trees.

In Lowell, neighborhood associations, non-profit groups and city agencies worked together to prepare a management plan and **plant 2,000 trees** in low-income, predominately Black, Hispanic and Asian neighborhoods.

The non-profit **Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust** promoted the importance of trees in the urban environment and ways in which people can participate. Initial response indicated strong public and commercial enthusiasm, with federal funds significantly over-matched. **Job creation and community development** are high on the program's agenda.

Michigan

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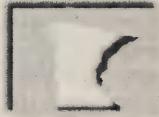
Urban Resources Initiative. Michigan State University, in partnership with the City of Detroit and local neighborhood associations, is continuing a community assistance program that helps community groups identify local interests, needs, strengths and weaknesses. The project is **driven by community participation** and interest, not technical urban forestry. The result has been urban and **community forestry projects** (vacant lot clean-up, tree planting) that have met and **continue to meet local needs**.

A **CD ROM-based catalogue** of current technical information for urban and community forestry is being produced by the Timberland Resources Conservation and Development Council in cooperation with Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan State University and the USDA Forest Service.

“Organizing a School Tree Planting Project” - Global ReLeaf of Michigan in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and Michigan DNR developed a **tree planting booklet** specifically for schools. It covers organizing students and volunteers, tree selection, proper planting and maintenance. The appendix includes helpful books related to trees and children’s books about trees.



Peggy Sand
State Urban Forestry Programs Coordinator
(612) 772-7562

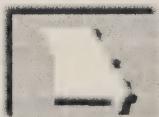


Metro Region Forest Resources Management Plan. An ecosystem-based forest resources plan was developed for the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan area by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The plan includes a resource assessment, desired future conditions, issue analysis and a series of strategies for the forest resources across the region, on undeveloped lands and in urban and developing communities.

Communities of Color. In St. Paul, the DNR and city forestry staff assisted local African-American and Hmong leaders in the Rondo and Selby neighborhoods to involve youth and others in a project to foster local **environmental stewardship**. In the summer of 1995, these neighbors began to implement their own Selby Victory Park on a vacant, city-owned lot.

Power with Trees Symposium. With support from a technology transfer grant through the USDA Forest Service Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States and several Minnesota and Iowa utilities, the 'Power with Trees: Creating Energy Efficient Landscapes Symposium' was held as part of the Energy Efficient Building Association's 1995 national conference. State-of-the-art information was presented about planting shade trees and windbreaks for energy conservation, monitoring energy savings, cooperatively implementing projects, and integrating wildlife and ecosystem benefits.

Oak Wilt Project. With financial assistance from the Northeastern Area, the DNR completed the fifth year of the oak wilt suppression project in the northern Metro Region. In 1995 the program was conducted in 125 communities in 7 counties. In 776 infection centers the DNR plowed 53 miles with the vibratory plow to prevent spread of the disease and removed 2,358 spore-producing trees.



Lisa Allen
Field Program Supervisor
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Forest ReLeaf of Greater St. Louis received funds to support their urban forestry activities including partnership tree banks, reforestation efforts and

educational programs. Other initiatives include improving the organization of nonprofit public/private partnerships and supporting the development of a state-wide volunteer forest health program.

The **Branch Out Missouri** program provided 66 grants ranging between \$1,000 and \$3,000 for community tree planting projects. Eighteen **Governor's Town Treescape Awards** were presented to towns, businesses, groups and individuals who completed exemplary tree planting projects that benefit their entire community.

A grant of \$50,000 was provided to Tower Grove Park in St. Louis, a National Historic Landmark, to support **reforestation efforts** and tree maintenance activities.

New Hampshire

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Administrator
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The State of New Hampshire's **Community Tree Steward Program** conducted several 30-week volunteer training programs. The training included such urban forestry topics as tree anatomy and physiology, identification, insects and diseases, proper pruning and planting, and soil and water relationships. **Community Tree Stewards** go on to become active promoters of urban forestry within their communities, and during 1995, **volunteered a total of 5,065 hours**.

Every year, 25 high school students attend **Community Conservation Camp**, which merges rural woodland forestry with urban and community forestry to give students the opportunity as a group to design and execute an actual project for a New Hampshire community. They also agree to develop a natural resource project for each of their home towns.

In FY 1995 Extension Educators in the Forestry and Wildlife Program and the Agriculture Program provided **technical assistance** to over 115 communities, provided support to more than 160 volunteer groups, assisted with the training of 40 Community Tree Stewards, trained 50 Master Gardeners and provided training and support to many natural resource professional groups.



New Jersey

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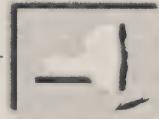
The New Jersey Forest Service conducted a statewide **Community Forestry Assessment Project** to establish a broad base of information on the condition of New Jersey's urban forest resources. The health, structure and composition of urban trees in 108 representative communities within the state were assessed and the results will be used to develop a state-wide urban forest resource plan, which will aid communities in both tree planting and maintenance efforts within residential and corporate downtown areas. In addition, the assessment will show the **benefits of healthy community forests**: air quality, soil erosion and flooding prevention, temperature mitigation and energy savings.

The Stafford Township **Stormwater Management Plan** demonstrated the important role trees and watersheds serve in **protecting and cleaning water resources**, controlling non-point pollution and runoff, and reducing soil erosion. The system allows for 100 percent of all stormwater to be contained on site and prevents it from traveling unfiltered and uncontrolled into lakes, lagoons and bays. The natural processes of trees filter out 95 percent of nitrogen and nearly 100 percent of phosphorous and other harmful existing nutrients. The township received a total of **20 environmental awards at the state and national level**, and the plan is presently being implemented in more than 300 municipalities in 11 states.

The New Jersey **Coastal Carbon Management Project** was developed to partially offset the two-fold increase of energy usage and emissions pollution caused by the influx of summer tourists to the region. In addition to energy savings through increased shade cover to homes and the resulting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the tree plantings also provided food, cover and nesting spaces for thousands of migrating and resident birds and Monarch butterflies that travel the Atlantic Flyway. **Local businesses supported the tree planting initiative**, since attractive central business areas **encourage visitors to shop and dine locally**.

 **New York**

Peter Frank
Supervising Forester
(518) 457-7370



In 1995, over 600 people attended at least one of seven **New York ReLeaf** workshops given on various topics including ecosystem management, how to set up a volunteer tree board, how to coordinate public and private efforts in urban forestry management and training for 'green' professionals and government officials.

Charles Schulz's Peanuts characters promoted **Arbor Day**, with this year's poster featuring Snoopy and Woodstock planting a tree with the caption "Every Day Should Be Arbor Day". The promotion was overwhelmingly popular and more than 20,000 posters and 200,000 bookmarks were distributed to schools and libraries throughout the State. The New York Arbor Day Committee organized a ceremony **hosted by Governor Pataki** which received wide media coverage.

As part of an ongoing communications program, the **State Urban Forestry Coordinator addressed** the annual meeting of the New York **Conference of Mayors** on community tree maintenance responsibilities, including benefit/cost analysis, utility conflicts, and site and tree selection.

 **Ohio**

Andrew Todd
Urban Forestry Coordinator
(614) 265-6707



Tree Planting Projects. A pilot tree planting grant program was developed using air pollution fine moneys. Seven communities and one country park district took advantage of this opportunity to plant over 1,600 shade trees under the Air Quality Enhancement Program.

Over **750,000 volunteers planted** over 1,500,000 trees and seedlings in a continuing **state-wide** program coordinated by the **American Free Tree Program.**

The Ohio Urban Forestry Advisory Committee and the Division's Urban Forestry Program developed an **urban forestry homepage** for the world wide web. Accessible anywhere by anyone, it electronically links communities with urban forestry needs to green industry companies that can satisfy those needs, providing information and opportunity to all potential and current urban forestry stakeholders.

Pennsylvania

*Norman Lacasse
Chief, Urban Forestry & Wood Utilization
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Capital Area Greenbelt, a 20-mile greenway around Harrisburg begun in 1901, came closer to completion. With the volunteer help from the Commonwealth's Dept. of Environmental Protection, the Bureau of Forestry and others, a timber bridge linked the trail over Paxton Creek.

Pittsburgh Teens-N-Greens, a program for at-risk **inner city teenagers helping their communities** through urban forestry, is now responsible for maintaining over 700 trees in Allegheny County. The original three groups increased to eight in the second year of this learning and service program.

The **Northeastern Pennsylvania Community Forestry Program** is an ecosystem project co-directed by the State Forester and the Morris Arboretum. Ten community-based projects, including partnerships of industrial development authorities, chambers of commerce and conservation groups within the Lackawanna River watershed are integrating social and economic goals and restoring ecosystem function to a region challenged by the legacy of coal mining.

The **Philadelphia Urban Resource Partnership** is an innovative collaboration of eleven **federal, state and city agency** representatives and twelve **community-based non-profit institutions** helping local Philadelphia communities enhance, appreciate and restore urban natural resources. Twenty-one projects, from vacant land utilization and wetland restoration to street tree nature trails, are sharing and matching \$500,000 in USDA support and technical assistance.



Rhode Island

Bruce Payton
Community Forester
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A partnership between Rhode Island's Division of Forest Environment, State University, Nurseryman's Association and Urban and Community Forestry Council completed the first Rhode Island **Tree Stewards training program**. The 20 participants, who included arborists, master gardeners, park managers and the general public, were trained in urban and community forestry issues, tree identification, selection, siting, soils and all aspects of maintenance during a month-long session. The new Tree Stewards will spend a minimum of 30 hours each in their communities starting tree boards, introducing tree ordinances, running educational programs and promotions.

In the past year, the **Western Cranston Gardening Club** formed a tree planting group, applied for and won a grant, mobilized students and athletic teams for the tree plantings, sponsored the National Arbor Day Poster Contest in two of the city's schools, raised the profile of urban forestry and was instrumental in the hiring of a professional tree warden for the city.

In a partnership between the Department of Transportation and the Urban and Community Forestry Council, **guidelines for roadside tree selection**, planting and maintenance were developed and implemented.



Vermont

Steven Sinclair
Urban & Community Forester
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Integrating sound urban and community forestry practices within all facets of state government has been an ongoing activity of the Vermont program. Recent progress has included participation with the **Water Quality Division in town road officer training**. Titled "Better Backroads", the series of 18 workshops focused on reducing soil erosion, managing water runoff and the maintenance of vegetative buffers along roadways. The Urban and Community Forestry Program presented information on the Town Tree Warden Program, protecting root zones during road construction, maintenance activities, and hazard tree identification. Additional workshops are planned with the Local Roads Program, which provides training to the 250 road crews throughout the state.

The central and district forestry offices held over 40 different **workshops and lectures** during the year. Audiences included consulting foresters, civic organizations, conservation commissions, garden clubs, planning and zoning boards, school groups and homeowners. Topics ranged from riparian zone management to the impacts of soil compaction in urban and rural forestry.

Community forestry assistance provided **43 cost-share grants to 35 communities**. Funds were allocated equally between planning/education grants and planting/maintenance grants. This emphasis on planning has had a positive impact on the quality of local programs, the number of communities with street tree inventories having doubled to 18 since 1991. This year, planning grants funded four street tree inventories, several management plans for municipal forests and parks, and three public site designs.

West Virginia

*Robert Hannah
Urban Forestry Coordinator
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A grant made to the Wheeling Park Commission (Oglebay Park) funded the addition of numerous trees to a local arboretum, and allowed for the removal of hazardous trees. The **arboretum serves as an outdoor classroom** for local schools.

West Virginia Urban and Community Forestry Grants through the Demonstration City Challenge Program planted over 2,100 trees, which improved the downtown infrastructure, provided jobs and raised sales of landscape and nursery stock. These grants provided the **financial stimulus** that enabled many cities to participate in community revitalization within their limited budgets.

The Urban and Community Forestry team developed outreach programs that include under-served populations, culture and gender gaps, senior programs and youth. The West Virginia Division of Forestry launched a **Grandparent Arbor Day Program** to bring senior citizens and youth together in understanding and appreciation of urban forestry benefits.

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The Dane County **Forest Cover Geographic Information System** emerged out of a growing need for data to address major land use decisions in the county. Planners, decision-makers, developers and environmentalists needed to preserve the quality of life while accommodating high growth rates, and GIS allows data to be collated and analyzed in a manner that **facilitates land use discussion on the economic, political and social values** underlying the issues.

Minority Youth Involvement. In a partnership between the City of Milwaukee's Department of Development - Office of Youth Initiatives, the Bureau of Forestry and the Housing Authority, an Urban Forestry Internship program was launched. With continuous training, the youth worked 20 hours per week during the summer to care for the landscapes in the low income housing projects where they themselves lived. After an initial inventory to assess the needs of the trees and plants, they involved the neighborhoods to determine the residents' needs and priorities. The result was that the vegetation and the neighborhood were actively cared for, the condition of the landscapes improved and vandalism decreased. Some of the youth wanted to, and did, continue working into the Fall after school. Over 50 youth have been involved in the intern program, which is being repeated in 1996.

Urban Forest Street Tree Simulation. Using a computer simulation developed by the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, city foresters can enter their inventory data and determine the long-term impact of key management decisions. Simulation output can be used to educate city officials about the impacts of changes to forestry budgets and illustrate the long-term economic benefits of treecare.



2. The Federal Program

The federal program translates the results of scientific knowledge to implement long term national strategic plans for comprehensive natural resource management.

It coordinates an overall framework in which all northeastern area states can act, while maintaining that each state is best equipped to identify, prioritize and develop its own state plans.

It provides leadership, finance and technical assistance to individual states.

Because resources are limited and effective long term solutions depend on meeting economic, social and environmental criteria, the federal program supports and promotes public / private partnerships at the federal, state and local level.

Program technical and managerial staff are located in field offices that serve either six- or seven-state sub-regions within the 20-state Northeastern Area. New York and the New England states are served out of Durham, New Hampshire. The Morgantown West Virginia office works with six states in the middle Atlantic sub-region and the St. Paul, Minnesota office serves seven midwestern states. In addition, there is a USDA Forest Service urban forester located in Washington DC to coordinate the federal program in the Washington metropolitan area, and three Centers of Excellence in Chicago, Philadelphia, and Amherst.



This decentralized staffing structure facilitates communication with state level counterparts and assists in regionalized approaches to problem solving. The delivery of technical assistance is aided by sub-regional centers of excellence that focus on technology development and information transfer.

The three Urban Forestry Centers of Excellence in the Northeastern Area reflect partnerships in the Northeastern Area, among Forest Service Research, universities and conservation organizations.

 **The Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States**
Chicago, IL

The mission of the Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States (the Center) is to identify urban and community forestry information needs, facilitate and support new and existing research, and coordinate the exchange of information that results in healthy communities and ecosystems. The Center is a USDA Forest Service cooperative effort between Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry and North Central Forest Experiment Station.

Since its inception in 1992, the Center (in cooperation with many partners) has produced ten educational publications, four videos, two computer programs, and co-sponsored six conferences/workshops, one computer program and five outreach programs are currently underway. The Center is actively involved in four ecosystem management projects designed to protect, restore and improve the management of natural resources in urban areas.

 **Center for Urban Forestry - Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania**
Philadelphia, PA

The Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania conducts urban forestry advocacy, education, research, and demonstration programs serving local, statewide and national audiences. The Center is a public/private partnership bringing the resources of an internationally-known university arboretum to enhance the Forest Service's capacity to effectively deliver assistance to a broad range of constituencies affected by natural resource management.

In 1995, the Morris Arboretum presented several Ecosystem-based Management (EM) Training Workshops to Urban Forestry leaders, natural resources managers, and community activists throughout the Northeastern Area. Additional professional training in arboriculture and technology transfer activities highlighted tree conservation, impacts of deer on the urban forests, and current research on tree-shelter technologies.

The Morris Arboretum Center directs the Northeast Pennsylvania Community Forestry Program, and in 1995, staff played key roles in statewide urban forestry councils and with the International Society for Arboriculture. Staff also provided:

- ↳ advice to state and regional forest policy makers concerned with biodiversity
- ↳ technical assistance to communities concerned with opportunities for youth and their quality of life
- ↳ answers to more than a 1,000 public requests for plant health information through a free plant clinic
- ↳ seven full-time, 12 month internships
- ↳ over seventy-five public educational courses and programs with local and regional audiences; delivered twenty professional workshops and assisted in training sessions throughout the northeastern area
- ↳ support for demonstration programs in service-based environmental education in schools and recreation centers
- ↳ coordinated activities with the National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, National Fish and Wildlife Agency, and played a key role in the Philadelphia Urban Resource Partnership.

The Massachusetts Urban Forest Management Project Amherst, MA

The Massachusetts Urban Forest Management Project works to develop strategies for the implementation of more effective urban forest management programs, focusing on the planning, design and maintenance of community trees. Specific technologies for utilizing community volunteers for the acquisition of urban forest resource data, including street trees, and the use of geographic information system (GIS), has been the focus of the Amherst Project. The use of volunteer initiatives and GIS applications in urban forest resource management will be expanded into other communities throughout the Northeast area over the coming years. An urban forest diagnostic laboratory associated with the Project provides regional service in the identification of tree pests and diseases.



3. Federal Financial Assistance

For most states, the major share of the federal funding is grouped under two basic systems for allotting dollars, the Base Amount and Pro-rated Urban Forestry Funding. Each state receives a \$150,000 base amount to support federal requirements to maintain a program coordinator, a viable urban and community forestry council and an aggressive citizen volunteer program. The remaining allocation is distributed pro-rata, based on the number of communities and the population of the fifty-two states. All federal funds are matched on a 50/50 basis by the recipients. Traditional urban forestry funds, the limited funds that had been available to the States prior to FY 1990, are now incorporated into the Pro-rated Urban Forestry Funding allocations for each state.



4. Special Urban Forestry Projects

A challenge grant process was established in the Northeastern Area using national level funds and following the advice of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council in providing grants to states. With the further development of the Council, the FY 1995 process and funding were managed at a national level.

Five challenge grants from the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council were awarded to projects in the Northeastern Area in 1995:

- ↳ ACRT of Kent, Ohio, received a grant of \$175,000 for evaluating air quality effects of urban trees and developing directionally sound programs for use in state ozone attainment goals.
- ↳ ACRT received a second grant of \$55,000 for a study on the effects of vegetation on micro-climates and residential energy use in Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- ↳ American Forests of Washington, DC received a grant of \$100,000 for a study entitled "Common Knowledge: Turning Local Gems into National Treasures", to assess the informal urban forestry education programs available through the USDA.
- ↳ American Forests received a second grant of \$135,000 for an urban ecological analysis, expanding the economic costs/benefits model to include air, water and energy.



The University of Illinois at Urbana received a grant of \$200,000 for a study entitled "Growing Hope: Children, Trees and Urban Public Housing."



5. Congressional Initiatives

Several congressional initiatives intended to explore an improved quality of urban living through expanded federal, state and local partnerships were maintained or initiated in Fiscal Year 1995.



The Cook County Ecosystem Restoration Project

Metropolitan Chicago, Illinois

Nearly 68,000 acres, representing 11% of the land in Cook County (including the City of Chicago) have been protected as a Forest Preserve. The effects of encroaching urbanization, however, have degraded the natural ecological balance of the Preserve where native plant and animal communities have been diminished or lost entirely. In response, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County in partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation, have initiated a plan to restore the native biodiversity of 80% of the District's holdings. In 1995 nearly 100 enthusiastic local volunteers, with professional supervision,

provided the majority of the labor to advance restoration on the 800-acre Swallow Cliff Woods. Other project objectives include environmental education and outreach, urban job creation and distribution of information on science-based restoration and management methods.



Greenstreets

City of Chicago, Illinois

Greenstreets is a major initiative in the city of Chicago to restore deteriorated neighborhoods and enhance public spaces through tree planting and active public participation. In 1995 over 5,000 large trees were planted by volunteers on various sites in key locations around the city including the Eisenhower Expressway, the Samuel B. Morse Elementary School and in several neighborhoods. Volunteers also conducted maintenance operations such as school site renovation on the West Side and at Curie High School. Numerous public, private and non-profit organizations from throughout the city provide people and resources in support of the Greenstreets program.



New Jersey Urban Forestry Project

1995 saw the culmination of a five-year pilot project in New Jersey intended to test the concept of ecosystem management in an urban setting. The approach was designed to introduce the value and benefits of trees, wildlife, water and open space into the urban revitalization and land-use decision-making process. The project targeted the urban communities of Newark and East Orange and the rapidly developing counties of Passaic, Middlesex and Mercer.

Each location identified its local issues through citizen participation and implemented a program to meet local needs. Newark and East Orange conducted assessments of their open space and natural resource management opportunities and then used local NGOs and citizen groups to create green linkages between parks, schools and residential areas throughout the two cities. Passaic County developed and implemented an open space and natural resource management plan that is being used to protect critical ecological resources from inappropriate development. Middlesex County has developed a model stream corridor protection and management ordinance to restore, nurture and perpetuate riparian forests in the County and to guide local restoration activities that included planting over 2,500 trees and shrubs. Mercer County has focused on a Green Links plan to enhance natural resource protection and management through coordination of planning and project implementation among the various municipalities within the County.



Revitalizing Baltimore

Baltimore, Maryland

Revitalizing Baltimore (RB) is a local-state-federal partnership whose aim is to improve the quality of life for the citizens of metropolitan Baltimore and the ecological health of the region's watersheds. Activities in 1995 have involved a wide variety of county, city, NGO's and local civic organizations who have provided environmental education and hands-on work experience for over 100 junior high and high school students; conducted workshops on watershed restoration and involved over 200 volunteers in follow-up activities to survey stream conditions, remove trash and debris from stream channels and plant stabilizing vegetation. The RB neighborhood stewardship group planted nearly 500 trees on city streets and on vacant lots as part of a citizen initiated series of cleanup and neighborhood improvement projects. Under the leadership of the Parks and People Foundation of Baltimore a watershed coalition has been formed to ensure ongoing public stewardship of the Gwynns Falls watershed.



The Arbor Program - Tree Source in Ohio

As of 1995, Tree Source has planted and maintained nearly 20 million trees statewide; about two million of which were planted by volunteers in 62 county volunteer programs. Tree Source works closely with the Ohio Department of Transportation to expand its highway reforestation efforts for both seedlings and large landscape sized trees. Tree Source continues to publish its Green Print newsletter in service to the green industry in Ohio.



Northeast Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Demonstration

Scranton, Pennsylvania

The Morris Arboretum Center continues to direct the Northeast Pennsylvania Community Forestry Program in collaboration with the PA DCNR, Bureau of Forestry. The Program's goal is a livable, sustainable environment for urban and rural communities in the northeastern Pennsylvania region achieved through community stewardship of forests and forest resources in which local actions contribute to the social, economic and ecological health of the region. The demonstration program integrates ten projects focused on economic revitalization through environmental restoration for communities within the Lackawanna Valley.

Projects include:

The Scranton Chamber of Commerce Greenway Enhancement Project: planning and planting native street trees along the North Scranton Expressway to screen poor views and incorporate the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Trail into the site. PennDOT is an active partner.

The Lackawanna Heritage Association: the restoration of 40 miles of trails and riparian areas along the Lackawanna river for recreational, educational and ecological purposes. When complete, the trail will touch 19 communities, 3 counties, and be accessible within a 10-minute drive to over 225,000 people.

Community Workshops: the NE PA Tree Council developed workshops to educate residents of the valley and municipal representatives about open space and subdivision planning, tree planting and restoration incentives.

Carbondale Industrial Yards: formerly a coal transfer site, the new industrial development includes soil amendment; river-side restoration through planting native and uncommon canopy, shrub and understory species; and the creation of a trail.



6. Pilot State Activity

As a result of the 1990-1994 five-year plan for Urban and Community Forestry in the Northeastern Area, the states of Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri and Pennsylvania were selected to develop accelerated programs with the aims of stimulating a resource conservation ethic within urban communities and encouraging multiple-use management of urban forest resources.

Resulting projects which have expanded the scope of the Urban and Community Forestry Program include:

- ↳ A forest conservation program in Maryland that protects critical resources during the development process
- ↳ A revised zoning ordinance in Southampton, MA, that protects critical natural resources and the community's 'way of life'
- ↳ An environmental education program in Pennsylvania that emphasizes urban trees in inner city areas.



7. Urban Resources Partnership

The Urban Resources Partnership (URP) is a program that puts federal government resources into the service of community-initiated and community-led environmental projects. At least seven federal agencies, including the USDA Forest Service, provide funding and on-site technical assistance to education and restoration efforts in eight cities throughout the country. Four of these cities—Chicago, East Saint Louis, New York, and Philadelphia—are served by the Northeastern Area of the USDA Forest Service.

In the first two years of the program, beginning in 1994, the federal government's investment of \$6 million leveraged an additional \$14 million in funding and community labor. Federal and local agencies provided 26,000 hours of technical assistance for 310 projects. Activities in the four northeastern cities during 1996 included these:



Chicago

- Wetland restoration
- Conversion of vacant lots to community gardens
- Neighborhood tree planting
- Streambank restoration and water quality testing.



East Saint Louis

- Park and boulevard tree planting
- Watershed restoration
- Conversion of vacant lots to tree nurseries and community gardens
- Production of environmental education videos and supporting materials.



New York

- Creation of environmental learning centers on vacant lots adjacent to schools
- Neighborhood tree planting
- Conversion of vacant lots to community parks and gardens.



Philadelphia

- Reforestation of the Wissahickon Stream Valley
- Creation of a community garden for the disabled
- Restoration of deteriorated park and recreation facilities.



Budget Summary for fiscal years 1993 - 1995



The State Program

State	1993	1994	1995
Connecticut	224.6	284.7	194.5
Delaware	172.5	167.0	163.7
Distr.of Columbia	238.8	324.9	431.8
Illinois	416.9	461.6	483.5
Indiana	309.3	299.0	272.1
Iowa	224.0	235.6	218.2
Maine	214.3	216.9	192.0
Maryland	254.5	306.9	388.7
Massachusetts	317.4	302.1	282.2
Michigan	302.2	342.7	262.3
Minnesota	330.2	297.5	264.5
Missouri	318.0	262.0	380.9
New Hampshire	223.8	231.0	195.9
New Jersey	257.7	303.1	246.1
New York	453.9	562.4	397.2
Ohio	410.7	643.5	530.6
Pennsylvania	501.5	663.3	662.1
Rhode Island	204.4	198.3	182.4
Vermont	219.5	194.3	220.6
West Virginia	274.2	239.1	226.0
Wisconsin	289.4	267.9	264.0
Sub-total	6157.8	6803.8	6459.3



The Federal Program & Federal Financial Assistance

Federal Program	1416.7	1390.3	1649.8
Fed. Financial Assistance	0.0	100.0	0.0
Sub-total	1416.7	1490.3	1649.8



Special Projects, Congressional Initiatives & Pilot State Projects

Ohio Arbor Program	496.0	500.0	500.0
New Jersey	496.0	500.0	500.0
Revitalizing Baltimore	0.0	500.0	500.0
Chicago GreenStreets	992.0	1000.0	1126.0
NE Pennsylvania	0.0	0.0	500.0
Cook County	0.0	0.0	879.00
Pilot State Projects	500.0	500.0	0.0
Special Projects	0.0	297.4	0.0
Sub-total	2484.0	3297.4	4005.0



Urban Resource Partnerships

New York City, NY (includes NRCS dollars)	0.0	250.0	510.0
Chicago, IL	0.0	0.0	250.0
East St. Louis, IL	0.0	0.0	265.0
Philadelphia, PA	0.0	0.0	250.0
Sub-total	0.0	250.0	1275.0

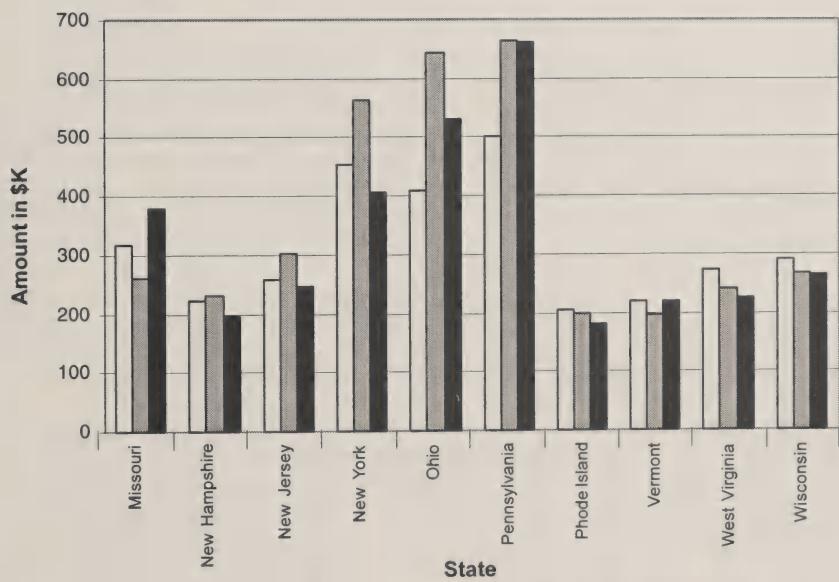
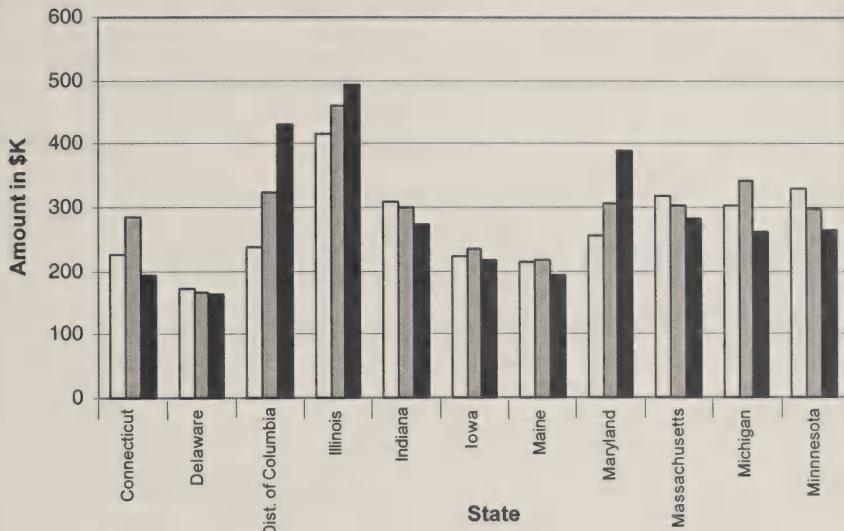


Urban and Community Forestry Program Funding

Total	10058.5	11841.5	13389.1
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State Program Funding 1993 - 1995



□ 1993 ■ 1994 ▨ 1995



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